REMARKS

A first Office Action was mailed on January 26, 2004. Claims 1 - 26 are pending in the present application. With this response, Applicants cancel claims 4 – 6 , 13 – 15 and 21 – 23 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1 and 9 to essentially include the limitations of canceled claims 4 – 6, amend claim 10 to essentially include the limitations of canceled claims 13 – 15, amend claim 18 to essentially include the limitations of canceled claims 21 – 23, amend claims 3, 11, 12, 16, 19, 20 and 24 as to informalities, and amend claim 7 to depend from amended claim 1. No new matter is introduced.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 15, 18 and 23 are objected to with regard to various informalities. Applicants cancel claims 6, 15 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 9, 10 and 18 to clarify that the selected selection table has a plurality of event information that indicate operations of an object. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2 – 6, 11 – 15 and 19 – 23 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicants cancel claims 4 – 6, 13 – 15 and 21 – 23 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 3, 12 and 20 to eliminate the term "both" in favor of the term "at least one".

With respect to claims 2, 11 and 19, Applicants make reference to page 38, lines 3 – 25 of Applicants' specification, in which Applicants describe real-time control of the display of two characters (objects) by continuing selection of event operations (implied program routines) in accordance with events stored in their associated selection tables. Applicants note that "since it is possible to conduct display control while fastening event operations of the leading character 31 and the enemy character 32 in real time, it is possible to enable the battle to be displayed continuously and smoothly". From this description, Applicants respectfully submit that the term "fastening" would be recognized by one skilled in the art as denoting the insertion of the implied event operation program routines into real-time program operation in order for the events to be carried out by the characters. .Accordingly, Applicants respectfully suggest that the meaning of the term "fastening" is clear.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102,103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,386,494 to White, or alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,456,977 to Wang. Claims 3, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White or Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,371,856 to Niwa. Claims 6, 15 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White or Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,432 to Tsai. Claims 8, 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,147 to Logg. Applicants cancel claims 4 – 6, 13 – 15 and 21 – 23 without prejudice

or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 3, 7, 9 – 12, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 24, and respectfully traverse these rejections.

In independent claims 1, 9, 10 and 18, Applicants disclose a method, a computer executing a program, a computer-readable recording medium and a program execution apparatus for displaying an object. In each case, the underlying display method includes the steps of: a) selecting a selection table from among a plurality of selection tables, the selected selection table having a plurality of event information that indicate operations of an object, b) selecting event information from among the plurality of event information of the selection table selected at the step of the selecting the selection table, and c) controlling to display the object so as to conduct operations corresponding to the event information selected at the step of selecting the event information on the basis of one or more parameters of the object affecting the operations. The controlling step includes the steps of: d) recognizing a speech command by a user, e) identifying based on the speech command one of the one or more parameters concerning the object, f) changing a variable setting of the one identified parameter depending on a volume of the speech command, and g) controlling the object on the basis of changed parameter setting.

Amended independent claims 1 and 9 essentially include the limitations of canceled claims 4 – 6, amended independent claim 10 essentially include the limitations of canceled claims 13 – 15, and amended independent claim 18 essentially includes the limitations of canceled claims 21 – 23. Accordingly, with respect to the above rejections, these claims must be considered in light of the Wang and Tsai references.

Wang discloses a voice control module for controlling a game controller, which is operative to recognize specific voice commands that correspond to game actions (see, e.g., column 4, lines 18 – 42 and FIG. 5 of Wang). Tsai discloses a karaoke apparatus

providing for voice control of first and second characters on a display screen, in which comparative aspects of first and second voices (e.g., frequency, volume and timing of the first and second voices) influence game actions (see, e.g., column 10, line 61 through column 11, line 62 and FIG, 11 of Tsai).

Unlike Applicants' invention, however, the combination of Wang and Tsai does not disclose or suggest a method for setting one or more parameters of an object that game operations by the object, where a parameter concerning the object is identified based on the content of the speech command, and a variable setting of the parameter is identified based on a volume of the speech command, thereby controlling the object on the basis of changed parameter setting (see, e.g., page 40, lines 9 – 20 of Applicants' specification).

The Examiner has argued that claim 6, for example, is made obvious by the combination of Wang and Tsai, as Tsai teaches the use of volume for the variation of parameters in a battle game. As Tsai in addition effectively teaches the selection of parameters (selection of attack scene) on the basis of volume point alone, Applicants submit that Tsai effectively teaches away from the use of speech recognition for parameter selection. In addition, unlike Applicants' claimed invention, Tsai does not teach changing a variable setting of a parameter based on a volume of a speech command, but rather teaches selection of one of two possible events according to a comparative measure of the volume levels of two voices (see, e.g., FIG. 11 of Tsai).

Similarly, as Wang teaches different speech commands for selecting switch commands, Applicants submit that Wang teaches away from the use of non-speech specific means (such as voice volume) for setting parameter values. In this regard, there appears to be little motivation to combine Wang and Tsai for this purpose.

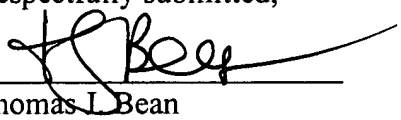
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 18 are not made obvious by the combination of Wang and Tsai, and are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 24 and 25 each depend form one of allowable claims 1, 10 and 18, Applicants further submit that claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 24 and 25 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 3, 7 – 12, 16 – 20, 24 and 25, consisting of independent claims 1, 8, 10, and 18, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he or she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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